

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 003809

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR INR/R/MR; IIP/RW; IIP/RNY; BBG/VOA; IIP/WEU; AF/PA;
EUR/WE /P/SP; D/C (MCCOO); EUR/PA; INR/P; INR/EUC; PM; OSC ISA
FOR ILN; NEA; WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC/WEUROPE; DOC FOR ITA/EUR/FR
AND PASS USTR/PA; USINCEUR FOR PAO; NATO/PA; MOSCOW/PA;
ROME/PA; USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE.

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [FR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - EU REFERENDUM - NETHERLANDS'
VOTE - FRENCH CABINET RESHUFFLE AFGHANISTAN
PARIS - THURSDAY, JUNE 02, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

- [1](#)1. EU REFERENDUM - NETHERLANDS' VOTE - FRENCH CABINET
RESHUFFLE
- [1](#)2. AFGHANISTAN

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

AFTER THE FRENCH "NON," THE DUTCH "NEE" ON THE EU CONSTITUTION IS ONE OF TODAY'S MAJOR STORIES, (SEE PART C) WHILE FRONT PAGES ARE OVERWHELMINGLY DEVOTED TO PRIME MINISTER DE VILLEPIN'S STRATEGY TO COMBAT UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE DIFFICULT DAYS AHEAD, INFLUENCED BY THE FORCED COHABITATION OF DE VILLEPIN WITH INTERIOR MINISTER SARKOZY. ACCORDING TO LE FIGARO, THEY ARE DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED. THE MORE TRADITIONAL GAULLIST DE VILLEPIN IS CONTRASTED TO THE MORE MODERN, 'ATLANTICIST' SARKOZY. HIS TRIP TO THE U.S. WHEN HE WAS INTERIOR MINISTER IS RECALLED AS HAVING BEEN A SUCCESS. (SEE PART C) IN LE MONDE, A REPORT ON U.S. REACTION TO DE VILLEPIN'S NOMINATION COMMENTS: "DURING HIS HOUR-LONG PRESS BRIEFING PRESIDENT BUSH MADE NO MENTION OF THE FRENCH VOTE ON THE CONSTITUTION AND NOT A SINGLE QUESTION WAS ASKED ON DE VILLEPIN'S NOMINATION. EUROPE IS NOT A TOPIC WHICH THE AMERICANS ARE EAGER TO COMMENT ON. LESS THAN A MONTH AFTER WELCOMING FM BARNIER TO THE WHITE HOUSE, THE AMERICANS ARE PERPLEXED BY THE CHOICE OF DE VILLEPIN AS PRIME MINISTER, A PROMOTER OF A 'MULTIPOLAR' WORLD, EVEN IF THEY KNOW THE PM'S PORTFOLIO DOES NOT INCLUDE FOREIGN POLICY."

COMMENTARY ON CHIRAC'S DECISION TO NOMINATE TWO STRONG PERSONALITIES TO LEAD THE NATION DOMINATES. LA CROIX SEES CHIRAC AS THE "UMPIRE" OF THIS TEAM, BUT WONDERES IF "IN NOT CHOOSING BETWEEN THE TWO, CHIRAC MAY BE RUNNING THE RISK OF MISSING OUT ON COLLECTING THE ADVANTAGES OF EITHER." DE VILLEPIN'S TELEVISED ADDRESS LAST EVENING ELICITS COMMENTARY ABOUT HIS RHETORIC AS OPPOSED TO CONCRETE MEASURES TO DEAL WITH FRANCE'S UNEMPLOYMENT. (SEE PART C)

IN INTERNATIONAL NEWS, THE ATTACK IN KANDAHAR IS REPORTED AND AN EDITORIAL IN LA CROIX SUGGESTS THAT "PROGRESS IN AFGHANISTAN IS STILL TOO SLOW." (SEE PART C)

THE FRENCH CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE DETENTION OF TWO FRENCHMEN IN GUANTANAMO IS REPORTED. LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION AS WELL AS RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO NOTE THAT THIS IS A "WORLDWIDE FIRST." IN LIBERATION, ONE OF THE DETAINEES' LAWYERS IS QUOTED: "THE MAGISTRATES WILL TRY TO IDENTIFY THOSE WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DETENTION CAMP." LIBERATION ALSO REPORTS: "THE FRENCH JUDGES WILL BE ASKING FOR COOPERATION FROM THE U.S. THEY MAY WELL BE FACING A STONEWALL IN SPITE OF THE TREATY FOR JUDICIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE U.S." RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO STARTS ITS REPORT WITH AN "EXPLOSIVE" QUESTION: "WILL FRENCH JUDGES CONCLUDE THAT THE U.S. HAS VIOLATED INTERNATIONAL LAW IN AFGHANISTAN AND IN GUANTANAMO? THIS EXPLOSIVE QUESTION IS AT THE CORE OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO A COMPLAINT FOR 'ILLEGAL ARREST AND ARBITRARY DETENTION' FILED BY TWO FORMER FRENCH GUANTANAMO DETAINEES. THE INVESTIGATION IS AS LEGALLY INTRICATE AS IT IS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE."

THE ECONOMIC PRESS REPORTS EXTENSIVELY ON THE DIFFICULTIES AIRBUS IS FACING IN ITS TIMELY DELIVERY OF THE A380. LIBERATION COMMENTS IN AN ARTICLE TITLED: "EADS ON CATASTROPHIC PILOT." "WITH THE PARIS AIR SHOW TEN DAYS AWAY, EADS AND ITS MAIN SUBSIDIARY, AIRBUS, ARE GIVING THEMSELVES THE WORST POSSIBLE AD CAMPAIGN. YESTERDAY, EADS STILL HAD NO CEO AND AIRBUS WAS FORCED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT ITS STAR FLAGSHIP, THE A380, WOULD NOT BE DELIVERED ON TIME, FORCING AIRBUS TO PAY PENALTIES. ONE CAN ALREADY HEAR THE SNICKERING FROM BOEING, WHICH IS FEELING PARTICULARLY STRONG SINCE THE U.S. DECISION TO GO BEFORE THE WTO."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

EU REFERENDUM - NETHERLANDS' VOTE - FRENCH CABINET RESHUFFLE

"A PRESIDENT UMPIRE"

FRANCOIS ERNENWEIN IN CATHOLIC LA CROIX (06/02): "BY FORCING THE COHABITATION OF TWO SUCH CONTRADICTORY WILLS AND PROJECTS, AS THOSE OF DE VILLEPIN AND SARKOZY, PRESIDENT CHIRAC SHOWS HE IS REFUSING TO CHOOSE BETWEEN DE VILLEPIN'S GUARANTEED CONTINUITY AND SARKOZY'S AVOWED DESIRE FOR A BREAK. BY MIXING THE TWO, CHIRAC IS RUNNING THE RISK OF DEPRIVING HIMSELF OF THE ADVANTAGES OF ONE VISION AS WELL AS THE BENEFITS OF THE OTHER."

"A GAULLIST VISION VERSUS ATLANTICIST BELIEFS"

ISABELLE LASSERRE IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (06/02): "DE VILLEPIN, WHO SPEAKS PERFECT ENGLISH, ANNOYS THE AMERICANS BECAUSE OF HIS MILITANT SUPPORT FOR A MULTIPOLAR WORLD, AT THE CENTER OF WHICH EUROPE, BUT MOSTLY FRANCE, WOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE AGAINST THE U.S. CONVERSELY, SARKOZY WHO SPEAKS A FALTERING ENGLISH, PRESENTS HIMSELF AS A 'FRIEND' OF THE AMERICANS, PUTTING HIS ANGLO-SAXON PRAGMATISM AT THE SERVICE OF THE TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP."

"THE SHOCKWAVE OF MAY 29"

PIERRE ROUSSELIN IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (06/02): "FRANCE WILL NOT HAVE STAYED LONG ALONE IN THE CAMP OF THE 'NO.' IT HAS NOW BEEN JOINED BY THE NETHERLANDS, BUT IT IS A MEAGER CONSOLATION. THIS SECOND REJECTION OF THE EU CONSTITUTION GIVES THE MEASURE OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE EUROPEAN CRISIS, WHICH IS AFFECTING A SMALL COUNTRY WITHOUT ASPIRATIONS OF BECOMING A MAJOR POWER, WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN PRO-ATLANTIC AND ATTACHED TO THE ANGLO-SAXON LIBERAL MODEL. IN BOTH CASES THE VOTE INDICATES THERE IS A REJECTION OF A CERTAIN TYPE OF EUROPE. ITS EXPANSION, AND THE PROSPECT OF TURKEY'S MEMBERSHIP, EXACERBATE IMMIGRATION ISSUES. WITH TWO SUCCESSIVE REJECTIONS, THE PROCESS OF RATIFICATION IS SIGNIFICANTLY THREATENED. THERE IS A STRONG TEMPTATION TO HALT THE PROCESS. AND TONY BLAIR IS THINKING ABOUT CANCELING THE UK REFERENDUM. THE CRISIS WHICH STARTED IN FRANCE, AND SPREAD TO THE NETHERLANDS COULD CONTINUE TO SPREAD, WITH SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES."

"PLAN B(LAIR)"

PATRICK SABATIER IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (06/02): "THE MASSIVE DUTCH 'NEE' IS A CONTINUATION OF THE DISASTER FILM WHICH STARTED IN FRANCE. IF THE ROAD TO POLITICAL UNITY IS CUT OFF, THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE FOR EUROPE MAY BE BLAIR'S PLAN B: KEEPING THE EUROPEAN UNION AS A FREE-TRADE ZONE WITH AS FEW REGULATIONS AS POSSIBLE."

"THE EU'S POLITICAL UNITY IS BRAIN DEAD"

JEAN QUATREMER IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (06/02): "BLAIR HAS A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPOSE HIS LEADERSHIP ON A EUROPE IN DISARRAY, AND TO TURN INTO TRIUMPH THE BRITISH VISION OF A VAST AND ORGANIZED FREE-TRADE EUROPE THAT WILL NO LONGER ASPIRE TO BECOME THE POLITICAL 'COUNTERWEIGHT' OF THE U.S. THE LANDSCAPE IS ONE OF DESOLATION. AFTER THE TWO 'NO' VOTES, THE PROJECT OF A EU TREATY IS BRAIN DEAD, DEPRIVING THE EU OF ANY ASPIRATION TO POLITICAL UNITY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE ATTEMPT TO BUILD A POLITICAL EUROPE HAVING FAILED, AND WITH THE FRANCO-GERMAN COUPLE DIMINISHED, BLAIR AND HIS PROBABLE SUCCESSOR, GORDON BROWN, WILL BE FACING AN OPEN AVENUE TO IMPLEMENT WHAT THEY WANT MOST: OPEN COMPETITION, DEREGULATION AND FREE TRADE."

AFGHANISTAN

"SUCH SLOW PROGRESS"

JEAN-CHRISTOPHE PLOQUIN IN CATHOLIC LA CROIX (06/02): "A COUNTRY THAT HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO SUCH VIOLENCE FOR SO LONG CANNOT GET BACK ON ITS FEET OVERNIGHT. THE VIOLENCE THAT IS ERUPTING ONCE MORE AFTER THE WINTER TRUCE OBEYS A CYCLICAL SEASONAL RHYTHM. THE TALIBAN ARE ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATING THEIR PRESENCE. AFGHANISTAN APPEARS ONCE AGAIN TO BE EXTREMELY VULNERABLE TO ALL ATTEMPTS TO DESTABILIZE THE COUNTRY. PRESIDENT KARZAI ENJOYS THE SUPPORT OF THE U.S. AND NATO IN THE NORTH AND THE WEST. BUT THE PRESIDENT APPEARS TO BE POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY STILL TOO WEAK TO TRIGGER THE COUNTRY'S MODERNIZATION. AFGHANISTAN IS BEING FED INTRAVENOUSLY AND MANY WINTERS WILL PASS BEFORE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT CAN TAKE ROOT." WOLFF